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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

DINELLO et al.

Confirmation No.: 7040

Serial No.: 09/823,868

Group Art Unit: 1641

Filing Date: March 30, 2001

Examiner: NGUYEN, B.

Title: PREWETTING STOP FLOW TEST STRIP

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2003, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. However, because this response is submitted within two-months of the date of mailing (namely, by February 12, 2004), **expedited procedure after final** is requested. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.